

Appl. No. 10/662,643
Amdt. dated April 25, 2005
Reply to Office action of January 25, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have received the Office Action dated January 25, 2005, in which the Examiner: 1) objected to the Abstract; 2) rejected claims 1-13¹ under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by *Hartmann* (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0018360); and 3) objected claims 14-16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten.

With this Response, Applicants have amended the Abstract to comply with the Examiner's request for correction and presented arguments in support of allowance of the pending claims.

I. REJECTIONS UNDER § 102(B)

Regarding the rejection of pending claims 1-13, Applicants respectfully traverse because the cited art fails to teach or suggest all of the claim elements. For example, independent claim 1 recites, among other things, "adjusting measurement circuitry to compensate for skew introduced by undesired memory elements." *Hartmann* simply fails to teach or suggest this claim element. Instead, in attempting to address current leakage problems in magnetic memory, *Hartmann* advocates using an additional current line and an additional source **Q2** (both shown in Fig. 2 of *Hartmann*) to achieve less current leakage between points A1 and A2. *Hartmann* at p. 3, ¶¶ 32-33. For at least this reason alone, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims are not anticipated by *Hartmann*.

In addition, combining *Hartman* with any other reference, for example, in a future obviousness rejection, would be improper because *Hartmann* teaches against adjusting measurement circuitry to compensate for skew introduced by undesired memory elements. To the contrary, *Hartman* advocates adding additional circuitry (such as current source **Q2**), instead of compensating already existing measurement circuitry to reduce current leakage. One of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to take such an approach because it would

¹ Applicants note that there does not appear to be a detailed reason for rejection of claims 12 and 13 in the Office Action. While page 3 of the Office Action offers a blanket rejection of claims 1, 12, and 13, subsequent pages offer no additional reasons of rejection of claims 12 and 13 based on *Hartmann*. Since Applicants are unable to find a detailed rejection, Applicants will proceed based on the blanket rejection offered.

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unnecessarily add more circuitry. Therefore, *Hartmann* in combination with any other reference is unable to render the pending claims obvious.

Dependent claim 5, which is not anticipated for at least the reasons stated above with regard to claim 1, is also not anticipated by *Hartmann* for additional reasons. For example, claim 5 recites that the disabling of claim 1 includes "coupling the desired memory element to a high impedance state." *Hartmann* again fails to teach or suggest such a claim element.² For at least this additional reason, claim 5 is not anticipated by *Hartmann*.

Dependent claim 8, which is not anticipated for at least the reasons stated above with regard to claim 1, is also not anticipated for additional reasons. For example, claim 8 recites that the adjusting of claim 1 includes "altering the input offset voltage of the read circuitry." *Hartmann* fails to teach or suggest an input offset voltage alteration, let alone teaching an input offset voltage for the purposes of compensating for leakage current. For at least this additional reason, claim 8 is not anticipated by *Hartmann*.

Independent claim 12 is also not anticipated by *Hartmann*. For example, claim 12, recites, among other things, (emphasis added) "monitoring the measured current value during the disabling and enabling of the desired memory element." *Hartmann* fails to teach or suggest monitoring the current value, especially during the enabling and disabling of the desired memory element, or why it would even be desirable to do so. Thus, neither claim 12, nor dependent claim 13, are anticipated by *Hartmann* for at least this reason.

Dependent claim 13, which is not anticipated for at least the reasons stated above with regard to claim 12, is also not anticipated for additional reasons. For example, claim 13 recites that the monitoring of claim 12 includes (emphasis added) "determining the derivative of the measured current value." *Hartmann* fails to teach or suggest determining the derivative of a current value

² Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's citation to ¶ 5 of *Hartmann* is misplaced, and the Examiner is reading the term "high impedance" out of context.

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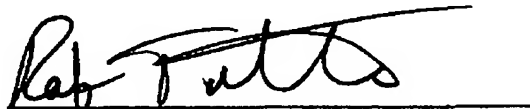
for any purpose. For at least this additional reason, claim 13 is not anticipated by *Hartmann*.

II. CONCLUSION

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim elements in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other elements can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each element of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. In the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, however, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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